

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LAGOS 04523 222217Z  
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 USIA-15 DOTE-00 /038 W  
-----231058Z 083365 /10

R 221445Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 658  
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN  
AMCONSUL KADUNA  
C/USDOC WASHDC 2637

UNCLAS LAGOS 4523

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: BENC, EWWT, OEXC, PINT, PINR, NI  
SUBJ: RAILROAD HEAD FIRED

REF: LAGOS 4173

1. DAILY TIMES (DT) APRIL 22 REPORTED VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION OF NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION (NRC) GENERAL MANAGER, THEOPHILUS NZEGWU AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR P.E. JAKPA, A MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT OFFICIAL, UNTIL NEW GENERAL MANAGER CAN BE FOUND. APPARENTLY NRC ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER FOR FINANCE O.O. KOLAWOLE AND CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT FOR OPERATIONS J.B. ODELEYE, ALSO RESIGNED VOLUNTARILY.

DT DID NOT GIVE ANY REASON FOR RESIGNATIONS BUT WROTE OBLIQUELY OF LONG YEARS OF SHODDY IRREGULAR DISCOURTEOUS SERVICE BY NRC.

2. PREMONITION OF RESIGNATION CAME EARLIER IN DT ARTICLE OF MARCH 13. DT REPORTED PANIC AT NRC DUE TO HIGH POWERED PROBES INTO OFFICIAL CORRUPTION. SPECIFICALLY, ALLEGATIONS MADE OF ILLEGAL PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES ABROAD BY TOP OFFICIERS IN NRC. DT PREDICTED IMMINENT MAJOR SHAKE-UP. SUBSEQUENTLY WE HEARD ARMAJ WAS IN EFFECTIVE CHARGE OF RAILWAYS, UNDER PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF CHIEF OF STAFF YAR ADUA.

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3. COMMENT: SHAKE-UP APPARENTLY HAS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY AFFECTED MAJOR PROJECT TO CHANGE NRC TO STANDARD GAUGE. DURING MARCH, IN MIDST OF PROBE, CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS WERE LET FOR SECTION 5 FROM PORT HARCOURT TO MAKURDI AND SECTION 8 FROM OTURKPO TO AJAOKUTA (LATTER VALUED AT 170 MILLION DOLLARS). FURTHER, NRC PROJECT MANAGER OMOTOSO TOLD EMBASSY DAY AFTER RESIGNATION, BIDS

FOR OTHER SECTIONS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

EASUM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORRUPTION, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, ALLEGATIONS, RAILROADS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977LAGOS04523  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770142-0283  
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**Office:** ACTION CU  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 LAGOS 4173  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2726985  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RAILROAD HEAD FIRED  
**TAGS:** BENC, EWWT, OEXC, PINT, PINR, NI, (NZE GWU, THEOPHILUS), (JAKPA, PE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009